



# Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Wednesday  
April 4,  
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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## ***Governor Togiola travels to Fiji for FINTEL meeting about Trans-Pacific Southern Cross Cable***

Governor Togiola Tulafono will travel to Fiji today, March 31<sup>st</sup>, for a meeting with Fiji International Telecommunications Ltd (FINTEL) concerning the underwater Trans-Pacific Southern Cross Cable that links Australia and New Zealand with Fiji, Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland.

While in Fiji, Governor Togiola will also visit the China and Pacific Island Countries Investment Forum in Nadi next week. The Governor will return to the Territory next Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Before leaving for Nadi via Apia at 4pm today, Governor Togiola issued the following statement on the Southern Cross Cable:

“Recently, while attending the inaugural New Zealand Pacific Trade Expo in Auckland, I met with representatives of Southern Cross Cables, the company that operates the Southern Cross Cable. This is the underwater fiber optic cable constructed in 1999—which is really two cables, some distance apart to minimize the likelihood of both cables failing at once—that is almost 19,000 miles long and links the following nine stations: Alexandria and Brookvale in Sidney, Australia, Whenuapai and Takapuna in Auckland, New Zealand, Suva, Fiji, Spencer Beach in the Big Island, Hawaii and Kahe Point in Oahu, Hawaii, Hillsboro, Oregon, San Jose and Morro Bay in Northern California.

It is important that American Samoa is connected to the Southern Cross Cable. It is the gateway to the new broadband Internet experience because it provides the fastest, most direct and most secure broadband access from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii to the heart of the Internet on the US mainland.

The company is owned by Telecom New Zealand (50%), Optus (40%) and MCI (10%). Construction of the cable began in July 1999, and was in use by customers in November 2000. Additional works and upgrades have since taken place to increase the network's capacity to 480 gigabits per second (Gbits or 1 billion bit/s = 1 Gbit/s (one gigabit or one billion bits per second)).

After discussions with Southern Cross Cables in New Zealand, it was clear that the first order of business is to talk with FINTEL (Fiji International Telecommunications Ltd), in Suva, Fiji. It appears from all indications that the best chance for us to quickly and inexpensively connect to the Southern Cross Cable is to hook up to the Fiji station. Our information at this time indicates this is the best alternative. To do our own splice into the cable running by American Samoa is cost prohibitive. I will be speaking with FINTEL next week, and from there, we will make a determination as to how best to approach this matter.

Southern Cross does not construct or lay the cables. The work is performed by other companies, such as Alcatel, a communications company based in Paris, France. If required, we will talk to them. I have been contacted by a representative of a Norwegian company that performs similar work. I am going to ask them to come to American Samoa to survey how best to approach this undertaking, should we, if and when, decide to proceed with such a major project. We are pursuing this aggressively and I hope to reach some conclusion soon on how to proceed.”

## **ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK 2006**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) is coordinating “Environmental Week 2006” scheduled for April 9-13<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's Environment Week is “Protect the Environment for Better Health”. A church service scheduled for Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at the CCCAS Talalelei o le Faaolataga, Tafuna, will officially kick-off the various activities planned for this week. The public is invited to participate in this important annual event.

For additional information please contact the ASEPA office or Louisa F. Te'o Tuiteleapaga at 633-2304.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On April 1, 1899**, Mauga Manuma of Pago Pago, co-signer (with Commander Richard W. Meade, USN) of the first American-Samoa treaty on March 2, 1872) died in Pago Pago.

**On April 1, 1900**, twenty of Tutuila's highest chiefs wrote to Governor Benjamin F. Tilley, expressing their pleasure at being under the American flag, and promising to "obey all laws and statutes made by the government or those appointed by the government to legislate and govern." They added "let good and useful laws be made, let the Foundation of Government stand forever."

**On April 1, 1944**, the U.S. Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3 ("MOB 3") left Tutuila. The Naval Station Dispensary then resumed responsibility for medical care.

**On April 2, 1900**, the Marist Brothers' School opened at Leone, Tutuila.

**On April 2, 1909**, Tui Manu'a Elisara died on Ta'u. Governor John F. Parker paid tribute to him by saying, "Tui Manu'a was the last of a line of kings in the Manu'a Group, his title being changed to District Governor from the date of the hoisting of the American flag in those islands. He was a devout Christian and a faithful supporter of government, and his loss...is keenly felt."

**On April 2, 1942**, the first airplanes of Marine Air Group 13 (MAG-13) landed at American Samoa's Tafuna Air Base, "just as the airstrip was brought to a usable state. Few of the Marine pilots were experienced, and training conditions were difficult. Heat, bugs, mud and rain made even the construction of an adequate camp difficult. While attempting to train as aviators, the men of MAG-13 also put in time as infantry, each squadron functioning as one company of two platoons plus one .30 caliber machine gun platoon. The group was supported in these defensive efforts by a tank company, a heavy weapons platoon, a three-inch [gun] battery, and one section of the island's barrage balloon squadron."

**On April 2, 1946**, the second USS *Tutuila* (ARG-4) dropped anchor at Shanghai, China, and prepared for her return voyage to the United States. (1a. Mooney VII, 1981: 367)

**On April 3, 1937**, Pan American's *Samoa Clipper*, skippered by Captain Ed Musick, arrived in Pago Pago on her return voyage from Auckland to Honolulu.

**On April 4, 1900**, in Apia, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley finally received his orders (which were issued on March 12, 1900) designating him as Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

**On April 4, 1911**, "The Navy Department...granted permission for the construction of a native hospital on United States Government land, on the hillside between the Naval Station and Pago Pago, without expense to the United States."

**On April 4, 1914**, Commander Clark Daniel Stearns, Governor of American Samoa, issued his "Regulation No. 10-1914: Cricket and Other Games," which amended Governor Charles B.T. Moore's "Regulation No. 1-1907," of the same title, issued January 7, 1907.

**On April 4, 1914**, Commander Clark Daniel Stearns, Governor of American Samoa, issued his "Regulation No. 11-1914: Ineligibility for Matai Title or Office Because of Crime."

**On April 4, 1931**, Commander James Sutherland Spore became American Samoa's 20th naval governor (acting) until April 22, 1931.

**On April 5, 1925**, Mr. Forrest J. Dollinger succeeded Mr. Lester H. Thornburg as Director of Education in American Samoa.

**On April 6, 1925**, Mr. Forrest J. Dollinger replaced Mr. Lester H. Thornburg as principal of the Poyer School in Anua, American Samoa.

**On April 6, 1942**, the Utah Construction Company, with Marine Corps assistance, completed the first runway of the Tafuna Air Base. It was 2,500 feet long and 250 feet wide.

**On April 7, 1879**, George Bertram Landenberger, American Samoa's 21st naval governor (May 12, 1932-April 10, 1934), was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**On April 7, 1917**, the United States declared war on Germany, and the U.S. Navy seized the German ships *Staatssekretär Solf* and *Elsass*, which had enjoyed refuge in Pago Pago Harbor since August 6, 1914. There was no resistance.

**On April 7, 1952**, ASG's annual payroll totaled \$807,704.78

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH

“Matagaluega mo alaga manuia Lautele”

Contact: Faaalu Iuli, Program & Community Support Worker

(UTULEI – As with many other months that are celebrated with banners, t-shirts, pens, mugs and other goodies, the National Child Abuse Prevention Month will be heralded in simply by the lighting of 3 candles. These signify 3 children that die every day from Child Abuse in America. According to Florence Ainu'u, Program Manager for Child Protection Services Program, staff work round the clock throughout the year ensuring the safety of children who come to the attention of the Department from various sources of referrals. The Department utilizes services both in house and in the community to support children and their families.

Last year, the Department of Human and Social Services received 185 allegations of abuse for children from birth to 18 years. There has been a steady decline of reports over the past 3 years but despite the fall, female children are being abused at a significantly higher rate than male children. These statistics, among others are indicative of where services are needed.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, as in previous years, the community is asked to pause and gather in the workplace, home and class to remember the children that have died as a result of abuse. Several activities will be happening throughout the month of April. This month is the month for Sexual Assault Awareness, Alcohol Awareness, Victims Rights Awareness Week.

According to Lupe Sunia, Assistant Director of the Social Services Division which houses the Child Protective Services program, the Director, I'aulualo Faafetai Talia is committed to strengthening effective partnerships between agencies working with children and families. Awareness and prevention is what this month is all about and the activities throughout the month will reflect this common theme of strengthening families and the community.

In addition, the Department of Human and Social Services along with Catholic Social Services will host a gathering that in the past has been known as a BAT meeting. Breakfast at Tafuna (BAT). This is a gathering where individuals bring their own breakfast to share both their breakfast, information and strategies on how to best work together. An essential factor to delivering services to the Community.

## Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Twenty years ago this month, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated by the US Congress, and then Governor A.P. Lutali to protect one of America's important underwater treasures. The coral reefs in this small bay are home to more varieties of marine life than any other piece of America its size. To highlight the relationship of the Sanctuary Program with the people of American Samoa, a week of public events is planned.

To kick-off the anniversary week, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Ocean Resources Management Council will host a one-day Ocean Forum at the American Samoa Community College on Monday, April 3 from 9AM to 3PM. The Ocean Forum, titled *2010: Balancing Ocean Uses and Conservation*, will examine both sides of development and resource protection issues.

Participants and the audience will explore compromises that support American Samoa's economic and social development, and restore and protect its natural resources. Local and off-island experts will hold panel discussions with the audience on land, coastal and open sea resource use issues. Student leaders will summarize the proceedings and strategies for balancing ocean resource use and protection.

On Wednesday, April 5, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary education staff will host an Ocean celebration in Futiga. Aimed at the youngsters, this Ocean Mini-Fest will offer engaging activities that will teach ocean principles.

On Friday, April 7, a geodetic mark will be dedicated in Futiga at the turn-off road to Fagatele Bay. This geodetic mark commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sanctuary, and joins the network of sites throughout the US and its Territories that serve as reference points for precise mapping, charting and surveying. The dedication begins at 9:00 and will be followed by birthday cake and demonstrations of geographic positioning techniques.

An entertaining and informative conclusion to the week's activities is a special Film Night on Saturday, April 8 from 6PM to 8PM at the Utulei Convention Center. Viewers will experience exciting cinematic adventure to some of the most spectacular coral reefs in the Pacific. Popcorn will be served! All events are free to the public.

Fagatele Bay NMS protects 163 acres of a small bay on the southwest coast of Tutuila Island, American Samoa. The Bay is part of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Sanctuary Program, one of thirteen sites which protect and preserve natural and cultural resources in areas of special significance in the oceans and Great Lakes of America.

In partnership with the local Department of Commerce, Fagatele Bay protects a pristine tropical coral reef ecosystem. Sanctuary programs expand public awareness and scientific knowledge of tropical marine ecosystems, improve resource management of these ecosystems, and regulate the uses of the Sanctuary to ensure its health and well-being into the future.

For more information about the week's events, call Nancy Daschbach, or the sanctuary office at 633-7354.

## Governor Togiola talks about \$10 million LBJ loan and \$20 million bond issue

Governor Togiola Tulafono today issued the following statement regarding the \$10 million loan for LBJ Hospital and the delay in discussions concerning the \$20 million bond issue during the recent special session of the Fono.

Governor Togiola, who is in Fiji for meetings this week, will return to the Territory on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

**\$10 MILLION LOAN TO LBJ:** "I am very grateful to the Fono for passing this bill now. The Senate has inserted into the language of the bill, \$1.7 million to cover fee increases for LBJ. I have had to again veto the qualifications on the use of the \$1.7 million for two reasons:

Firstly, the loan is not going to solve ongoing financial problems for the Medical Center. The fees will. We need the continuation of the fees to make sure that LBJ has the financial ability it did not have before to continue its operation.

Secondly, the \$1.7 million is a one-time funding and it will not help future operations. It is the reasonable thing to give them this assistance without losing its ability to continue operations."

**\$20 MILLION BOND ISSUE:** "I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Fono for convening the special session. I know it ended without any discussions on the \$20 million bond issue. The bill is still valid in the Fono. It does not require re-introduction in the July session.

I have agreed with the Fono to delay any action on the bond issue. While it is critical to address some of the matters that require some immediate attention, it appears that there is a lot of misunderstanding about the bond and about the financing. We need to explain it thoroughly before we can go forward.

It appears also that we will need to consider some other projects we did not include in the original list of projects. So, it makes good sense to wait and make sure everyone understands the specifics of the bond issue before going forward."



## Governor Togiola signs Military Entry Legislation

Governor Togiola Tulafono on Friday, March 31, 2006, signed into law the Military Entry Legislation (House Bill 29-42) that allows the use of U.S. Military Identification Cards, official military orders or leave forms for entry into the Territory.

In a brief signing ceremony on Friday at Tafuna Airport before leaving for Nadi, Fiji, Governor Togiola told the main sponsor of the bill, who was in attendance, Rep. Olo Ropati Atimalala Tagovailoa of Tualatai County --representing the House Speaker, his colleagues, and co-sponsors of the legislation-- and Mrs. Judy Ve'ave'a Taufete'e, staunch backer of the bill and active member of the Family Readiness Group, who is also the wife of First Sergeant Fa'aagi Taufete'e of the local U.S. Army Reserve, that he was happy to sign the bill on behalf of all sons and daughters of the Territory so that they have a much smoother entry into and out of American Samoa from now on.

"It is a good feeling to tell you that I know there was a genuine feeling that the system speedily called upon you to serve and it appeared to be dragging its feet in getting you back home hassle-free," said Governor Togiola. "No more hassles! No more! Thank you for your patience. You rightly deserve this privilege from your island home."

Governor Togiola said he understands the travel hardship that military personnel have experienced and he regrets the inconvenience that it may have caused in the past and this bill is a blessing for many.

"This long and overdue legislation respects and supports our men and women in uniform, and their families, all of whom are a vital source in keeping our military personnel even stronger. This is a also welcome change especially for our military personnel traveling to the Territory for leave and family emergencies," said Governor Togiola. "It is my honor to sign the Military Identification Legislation. May God bless you all."

Rep. Olo Ropati Atimalala Tagovailoa, a military veteran, expressed his sincere thanks to the Governor, the Fono, supporters of the measure and especially his bill co-sponsors --Rep. Savali Talavou Ale, Rep. Gaoteote Palaie Tofau and Rep. Laolagi Savali Vaeao-- for working on this important piece of legislation that will benefit all of American Samoa's men and women who have defended and continue to defend the freedom that America and the Territory enjoy daily.

"Our people in the military depend upon the support of the Governor, the Fono and our island community," said Rep. Olo. "We count on their skill and courage while they count on all of us to meet our obligation. With this legislation, we're sending a clear message. This is our first step on meeting our many obligations because we are so thankful and honored for their dedication and commitment to serve in the Armed Forces."



Governor Togiola signs Military Entry Legislation into law



Governor Togiola Tulafono congratulates Rep. Olo Ropati Atimalala Tagovailoa of Tualatai, main sponsor of the Military Entry Legislation

### Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

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Or call Harry Stevens @ 733-1694 or Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

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